

OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



An ARRL Special Service Club

March 1989

Next Meeting March 8, 1989

FCC Opens 17 Meter Band

By Jeffrey A. Durr, KA7AKU

The big news this month is the opening of a new band for amateur use. On January 30, 1989, the FCC announced the 17 meter band had been opened to hams with a general class or higher license. Here is the text of the ARRL bulletin with the details:

ARRL BULLETIN NR 7
ARLB007
JANUARY 30, 1989

FCC IS OPENING THE 18 MHZ BAND FOR AMATEUR OPERATION. STATIONS WITH GENERAL, ADVANCED AND EXTRA CLASS OPERATORS MAY BEGIN USING THE 18MHZ BAND AS OF 0001 UTC 31 JANUARY 1989, ONE MINUTE AFTER 7 PM EST MONDAY 30 JANUARY 1989. A1A EMISSIONS MAY BE USED IN THE WHOLE BAND FROM 18.068 TO 18.168 MHZ. DIGITAL EMISSION F1B FOR DIRECT PRINTING, TELEMETRY, TELECOMMAND AND COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS IS PERMITTED BELOW 18.110 MHZ AND ANALOG EMISSIONS SUCH AS FAX, SSTV AND PHONE MAY BE USED FROM 18.110 UP. THE NORMAL POWER LIMIT OF 1500 WATTS OUTPUT APPLIES, BUT AMATEUR OPERATIONS MUST NOT CAUSE HARMFUL INTERFERENCE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN FIXED SERVICE OPERATIONS. THE AUTHORIZATION IS CONTAINED IN A REPORT AND ORDER IN PR DOCKET 88467. UNDER ITS TERMS AND THOSE OF WARC 79, THE BAND BECOMES EXCLUSIVELY AMATEUR ON JULY 1, 1989

AR

March Program

John Sager

Army Corps of Engineers

John will be giving a presentation on "The Mole", the machine used to create the tunnel that drains Spirit Lake.

Words from the President

By Ray Deeth, K7VDQ

I must say the first two months of being president sure has been exciting and rewarding to see the club bubbling with enthusiasm. So exciting that I must apologize for not expressing my sincere gratitude for the vote of confidence in electing me as your president.

The last meeting was my first in front of the club which is much different than being the heckling spectator. Having to announce the silent key of N7DUJ make me very nervous causing me to forget some agenda items. However, I promise to do better as we grow together this year.

The forthcoming ECHO SHAW school space adventure promises to be a tremendous community public relation endeavor for the club. Randy, KZ7T, and I looked at each other, "What did we get into" but, working with these fifth graders will be a rewarding experience. Even the teachers were impressed with our ideas of providing MISSION CONTROL communications to the space shuttle, etc. Hopefully, by the March meeting we can give the club more details of this special event. Again, thanks for the great support in making OTVARC smile as we venture into the future.

Silent Key, Roy Nunley, N7DUJ

By Jeffrey A. Durr, KA7AKU

The OTVARC club has lost a long time and valued member, Roy Nunley, N7DUJ.

Roy was an active member of OTVARC, participating in public service, field day and contests. His outgoing personality and unique laugh will be missed at club meetings and functions.

A memorial fund has been set up in his honor. Donations from the general membership are welcome. Additional information on the memorial fund is on page 2.

DX for Beginners and Others

By Greg Milnes, W7AGQ

Here we go again. No column for the last couple of months due to problems in the transition of the Newsletter. Fortunately DX just goes rollin' along.

Whether we consider ourselves a "DXer" or not, some of our non-ham friends may ask us questions about those radio signals from far away places. It could prove embarrassing to be unable to answer. With that in mind let's ramble around the spectrum a little and see what's there. I will limit this column to a view of broadcasting (which I define as entertainment, news, sports and education for the general public).

The most familiar of our broadcasting services are found in the three frequency bands...standard broadcast (am radio), FM and TV. Then there are shortwave broadcast stations such as the Voice of America and Radio Moscow, and hundreds of others. Let's take a look at some of these broadcast services.

From 50 KHz or so on up to about 150 KHz you will find a few standard time stations like WWVB at 60 KHz, and a lot of cw, military and weather stations. No broadcasting really. From 150 to about 530 KHz is the longwave broadcast band used mostly in Europe and inner Asia I think.

We all know about the standard broadcast band from 535 to 1605 KHz (or do we?). Some of your non-ham friends may have heard KSL in Salt Lake (1160 KHz) or even XETRA in Tijuana (690 KHz) and mentioned it to you. If you want to do a little DXing for your self, try for some of the more distant clear channel stations...like WLW in Cincinnati at 700 KHz or you can check in with KOA in Denver, 850 and WWL in New Orleans at 870. If you want to try for the granddaddy of them all, how about the nation's first broadcast station, KDKA in Pittsburgh at 1020. For you farmers look for the early morning agriculture reports from WCCO in Minneapolis on 830 or WHO in Des Moines at 1040.

These stations can be heard on many winter evenings from about sunset 'till just after daylight. You don't have to have a super radio either. For starters just use your car radio. Most of them are quite good. All of the above stations run 50 kw at night and occupy "clear channel" frequencies. This just means there aren't supposed to be many stations allowed there in the evenings. Unfortunately, the FCC has decided to allow more and more night time stations on our "clear channel" frequencies so be prepared for QRM!

(Continued on page 3)

In memory of Roy Nunley, N7DUJ

During the February OTVARC club meeting, a vote was taken on establishment of a memorial fund in honor of Roy Nunley, N7DUJ.

The proposal as adopted by the club at the February 8, 1989 general meeting:

- (1) Authorize the OTVARC club to donate \$50.00 toward a family charity in N7DUJ's memory.
- (2) OTVARC will establish a memorial fund to allow fellow club members to add to the club's donation.

Several club members were present at the funeral services in his loving memory.

Roy's family has suggested the memorial be designated to the SHRINERS CHILDRENS HOSPITAL, 3101 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, Oregon, 97201.

Members may submit a donation to the club treasurer at the next regular club meeting.

Space Shuttle Launch

By Ray Deeth, K7VDQ

Randy, KZ7T, and your president Ray, K7VDQ, met with the teachers of Echo Shaw School on February 10, 1989. The purpose of the meeting was to plan the involvement of OTVARC in their mock space shuttle launch.

We are very excited about this public service event. It will give a big boost to the interest in amateur radio among the youth at this school.

Watch you TV station news report since this event should have good press coverage. The launch is scheduled for March 14, 1989, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The OVARC NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. The opinions, views and recommendations of its contributors are not necessarily those of the Club, it's officers, advertisers or the Editorial Staff. Articles or letters may be submitted to: Jeffrey A. Durr, KA7AKU, Editor, 20320 S.W. Clarion Street, Aloha, Oregon 97006. Deadline for all newsletter material is the 25th of the preceding month.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Lodge, 3500 S.W. 104th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon. Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. following a buffet dinner served at 6:15 P.M.

All correspondence other than for this newsletter should be sent to: Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, Post Office Box 5132, Beaverton, Oregon 97006-0132.

(DX for Beginners and others, from page 2)

Some of your curious friends may want to know why we have "K" stations here and in the east they have "Ws". As far as I know, that's the way they developed after the first few...KDKA in Pittsburgh and KYW Philadelphia. In states near the Mississippi River there are both Ks and Ws, both in some towns.

Canada has the same power limit we have, 50 kw, but not so in Mexico and much of the world. It is common to see stations listed with 100 kw, 500 kw and even 1 or 2 megawatts. Actually we had a 500,000 watt AM broadcast station right here in the U.S. a long time ago. That special authority was given to WLW in Cincinnati at 700 KHz. They had a big signal but the FCC decided to have lots of stations with lesser power rather than a few super power ones.

Locally, KEX in Portland and KPNW Eugene both have 50 kw, night and day. KXL, KWJJ and KSGO in Portland all run 50 kw days and 10 KW at night. So much for the standard AM broadcast band. Oh, one more thing. The band in the U.S. will expand up to 1700 KHz in the near future.

I have never personally tried for DX on the FM band (88-mhz). Many others have though and find it very challenging. I would suspect that one would almost be required to have a large, high antenna to be very successful. On the other hand we are nearing a high sunspot time and signals may come flooding in from all over.

On the TV bands, there are DXers too. Some try the best they can on the lower channels (2-6), while others specialize in UHF DX. When the sunspots are up amazing signals come in. With a normal, small antenna (in some cases rabbit ears), I got transmissions from XEG in Monterrey, Mexico to Channel 2 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I found Spring and Fall and to a lesser extent, Summer, to be the best for DX. Generally from mid-morning through to early evening were the best times. I found the easiest DX channels to be the unused ones in the low band. Just watch them or check them from time to time and see what happens.

There are a lot of tricks to identifying TV stations too. Some of them are not quite on channel on purpose. For instance KATU in Portland used to be (maybe still is) a little below normal channel 2 assignment. This was to add a little protection to the old channel 3 assignment in Salem. Because of this spacing, the adjacent channel beat bars will differ from normal. That's a big help in identifying or at least eliminating an unknown station.

I found that when a TV station has a lot of snow or noise

interference, I can see it much better through a mirror or even two mirrors. I don't know why this is so, but it is.

So, there really is DX to be had even on the AM broadcast band or lurking around the FM or TV bands. If you are interested, I can probably point you to some more detailed information. Have fun.

A.R.E.S. Anyone?

By Bob Dorman, KV7F
District Emergency Coordinator

Amateur Radio Emergency Service. You have heard it a zillion times, but do you know what it means?

A.R.E.S. is one of the two main "phases" of the Field Services Division of ARRL, the other being the National Traffic System (NTS). From the section level down, A.R.E.S. is structured something like this: The section manager appoints the section Emergency Coordinator, the highest A.R.E.S. official in the section (the state of Oregon, in our case.)

The Section Emergency Coordinator, in turn, appoints Emergency Coordinators, usually for the county level of operation, and at his option, may appoint District Emergency Coordinators to work with a group of E.C. jurisdictions. But it is the Emergency Coordinator with whom members will have most of their A.R.E.S. contact.

An A.R.E.S. member is a ham (any license class) who has registered his equipment and skills with his emergency coordinator, and who carries the membership card to attest that registration. A.R.E.S. members are asked to attend certain meetings, as called by their E.C., and to participate in A.R.E.S. nets at the local level, when possible.

The E.C. encourages his members to prepare their stations for prolonged emergency power operation and to sharpen their skills for emergency network operation and traffic handling and he prepares the members for deployment, to supplement the communications for the agencies we serve.

Who is your Emergency Coordinator?

Portland: Emerson Ray, K7SGU
Washington County: Jim Yohe, KF7KY
Tillamook County: Archie Base, WT7A
Yamhill County: VACANT - (See Washington County for registration)

There will be future articles in this newsletter regarding the A.R.E.S., how it works, and what it does.

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